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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

GUNARATNAM et al.

Group Art Unit: 3761

Appln. No.: 10/090,173

Examiner: M. PATEL

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: MASK AND HEADGEAR CONNECTOR

RECEIVED

APR 08 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

March 28, 2003

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SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please further amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

64. (New) A respiratory mask and headgear combination comprising:
a respiratory mask assembly, said mask assembly having rigidly secured thereto a first connector portion, said mask assembly further including a second connector portion adapted for releasable mating with said first connector portion; and

adjustable headgear to secure said mask assembly on a patient, said headgear including at least one attachment strap, wherein

 said first and second connector portions form a quick-release connection to release the at least one attachment strap from said mask assembly;

 said first connector portion and said second connector portion are releasably lockable with respect to one another; and

 a selected connector portion of said first and second connector portions is integrally formed in one piece with the mask assembly.

65. (New) A respiratory mask and headgear combination according to claim 64.

 wherein the respiratory mask is a nasal mask.

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02 FC:1202

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